

Zone 7 Supports Salmon

March 19, 2015

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Zone 7 directors voted 6-0, with one abstention, to approve an agreement with Alameda County to contribute to a project that will improve two culverts, and help facilitate migration of steelhead farther up Stonybrook Creek in Sunol.

The decision was made at the director's meeting on Feb. 16.

Stonybrook Creek, a tributary to Alameda Creek, flows to the Bay. Steelhead have been seen along Alameda Creek and in Stonybrook Creek.

Total cost of the project is \$1.9 million, with the bulk of it coming from grants and federal appropriations. Zone 7 staff has identified \$123,000 in its budget that it can make available in working with the county to meet the county's share of \$225,000. There will be negotiations with the county over the amount of the contribution.

Director Sandy Figures abstained. He said he was worried about possible future implications in which Zone 7 would later be tapped to give up water to support creek levels for the fish during a drought.

Staff attorney David Aladjem said that the memorandum of understanding for the project says that Zone 7 would not be responsible for any maintenance or repair of the project. Aladjem said that the provision of water would be included in the clause that holds Zone 7 free of any maintenance obligation.